(TMI Focus, Vol. XXXII Nos. 3&4, Summer/Fall 2010)

EXPLORING "VISION" WITH A CORTICALLY BLIND PATIENT

by Susan Consolloy, PT, CHt

Susan Consolloy is a practicing physical therapist and clinical hypnotherapist and uses hypnotherapy as well as other alternative modalities as an adjunct to physical therapy. She treats a wide variety of neurologically and orthopedically impaired individuals at the Taos Living Center, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center in northern New Mexico. Susy has been a TMI member since 2002 and completed her OUTREACH *facilitator accreditation in November 2010. The Monroe Institute® has contributed to profound awakenings within her own consciousness, and she feels a passion to share the value of its resources with others.*

This is a case study of using the Hemi-Sync® binaural-beat technology with a physical therapy client. W.M.—a sixty-nine-year-old sincere, outgoing, and highly educated man—was seen in late 2009 and early 2010 following a severe cerebrovascular infarct (stroke) affecting his occipital lobes and the cerebellar hemispheres of his brain. This unfortunately resulted in an inability to interpret the visual signals coming from his eyes, leaving him cortically blind. Other complications following his stroke included severe and often unrelenting headaches as well as difficulty balancing in order to stand, changes in strength, and intolerance to direct sunlight.

W.M. is a curious and open-minded individual who takes life in stride. His easygoing nature has served him well as a professor of physics and a highly respected particle physicist at his current position. One of his primary desires after the stroke was to find a way back to his employment; his colleagues were also anxious for his return. W.M. has excellent family support and they were consistently available night and day during his recovery, always eager to follow up on suggestions from rehabilitation staff. W.M. also received services from occupational therapy and speech pathology.

Physical therapy consisted of therapeutic exercises, balance activities, gait training, neurological reeducation, and suggestion therapies using hypnosis. In addition, after hearing of the possible health benefits of Hemi-Sync, W.M. agreed to "experiment" with sound. With his permission, METAMUSIC® *Sleeping through the Rain* and *The Way of Hemi-Sync* were introduced.

After a few days of listening to those selections, W.M. reported, "I am not sure but it seems that something is different." He no longer had headaches and was able to tolerate direct

sunlight. Within a few weeks W.M. was experiencing improved balance while walking and standing, as well as increasing normalization of strength in all limbs and his trunk. Because of his progress, W.M. was discharged to home with the support of his family and continued with outpatient care.

Fascinating findings began to surface when W.M. returned as a physical therapy outpatient. He reported increasing visual phenomena, initially interpreted as the return of his visual perception. W.M. seemed to "see" best when he was totally blindfolded; however, his reports were very unique. With his eyes closed *and* sometimes while blindfolded, W.M. could see outlines of structures in his immediate environment. He reported color as "shades of gray" or "twilight colors," and on a couple of occasions he reported 360 degrees of visual awareness. During one physical therapy session, playing cards were held up behind W.M.'s head (while he was blindfolded). He then accurately described the nature of the cards—whether they were red or black, a face card or a number card. This perception exercise was not repeated because the patient reported a bad headache after that activity. When walking with his long "sighted cane," W.M. could accurately point to openings and state where solid matter intersected with empty space. As a passenger while driving to and from therapy, he sometimes "visually" experienced large, detailed buildings that "did not exist in this reality normally!"

A recent follow-up conversation with W.M. revealed that the unusual visual phenomena continue. W.M. stated, "Any time I close my eyes I have the picture of what is in front of me, and if I turn my head I see a new picture of what is in front of me." W.M. agrees that he "sees" better with his eyes closed rather than open.

Since W.M. is eager to become more sighted and is willing to "experiment more with Hemi-Sync," he would be an ideal subject for a controlled study.

Hemi-Sync® is a registered trademark of Interstate Industries, Inc.
© 2010 The Monroe Institute